

The Children Act 2004 - 20 years on, what's been the impact?

Welcome to our series of regular newsletters, bringing insight into the Children Act 2004, which turns 20 this year. During our special edition newsletters, we will be:

- Introducing a Special Guest Blog covering important pillars contained within the Children Act;
- Showcasing our insight on the guest blogger's theme - learning from the sector;
- Sharing details of other connected news and;
- providing details about some of our work and the support that we offer.

All of our work here at Shaping Governance centres around 'working together' to improve outcomes for children. This was a central pillar of the Act, emphasising the importance of partnership and cooperation among various agencies and professionals involved in child welfare.

Our blog this month comes from **Cllr Victoria Cusworth**, Cabinet Member for Children at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Victoria explores how the Children Act 2004 has influenced the way she works, both now as a lead member, but also her time as Chair

of Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Warmest regards,

The Shaping Governance Team



Guest Blog: Councillor Victoria Cusworth



This month's guest blog is by Councillor Victoria Cusworth from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Victoria is the Cabinet Member for Children, a hughly important role and one that is politically accountable for children in their Borough. In her blog, Victoria talks about this role and her time as Chair of Scrutiny and how the Children Act has influenced her work.

We are grateful to Cllr Cusworth for sharing her thoughts and insight.

Click here to read Victoria's Blog

Other connected news

- The Local Government Association's ongoing support offer for Children's scrutiny committees and Corporate Parenting Boards
- Children's costs drive exceptional financial support requests
- We are all corporate parents - exploring the role of a school governor



Our insight on the subject

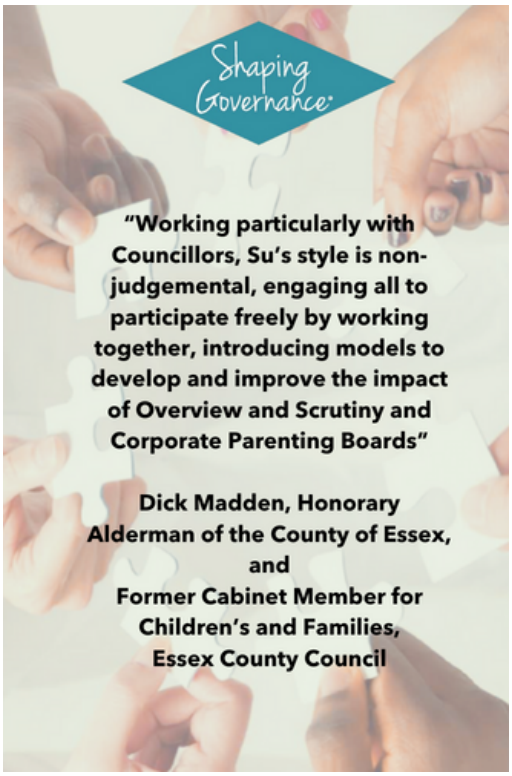
Our CEO, Su Turner has been working with the LGA since 2021 providing development support and a holistic improvement offer for Children's Scrutiny Committees and Corporate Parenting Boards. Since then she has worked with around 50 councils to support improvement in their governance of children's services. The impact for councils and children has been evidenced by the way they have forged new working arrangements which focuses on putting

children at the centre.

Outside of the work that Su does with the LGA, Shaping Governance also has a comprehensive offer for Scrutiny Councillors and Corporate Parents (see below). Our work has been instrumental in changing the way that boards and committees work and also cited as an improvement influence in children's services inspections.

"Su was instrumental in getting our ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Services) to good".

How we support Schools and Councils on this important issue:



For Councils and Councillors we:

Provide support to Corporate Parenting Boards to improve governance and oversight and be part of the journey to improving outcomes for children in care. Our work helps all to understand what being a good corporate parent means and practical ways to carry the role out, and caring for the wellbeing of their children.

Provide Overview and Scrutiny Committees with the skills and knowledge to improve the way that they challenge and support - being child-centred. Our approach has been praised by Secretaries of State, and we have also been called Agents of Change!

We use appreciative approaches to help Councillors to think differently and to use this new angle to be part of improving outcomes for children.



Publications and Research

Our CEO, Su Turner has authored a number of guides on the role of Scrutiny, Corporate Parents and Children's Services more generally. Many aimed at helping Councillors to understand how to govern more effectively. Take a look.



Shaping Governance - here to help

Interested about finding out more about how we can help you to improve your governance - get in touch using the button below.

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